



July – September, 2018

Quarterly Report

PEACE AND SECURITY CONTEXT IN WEST AFRICA

ORGANIZED CRIMES, VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM: In the review quarter, attacks by violent extremist groups such as Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Al-Mourabitoun intensified across the region, especially in Nigeria, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. Some of the places hardest hit were military installations, worship places, markets among others. In Nigeria, Boko Haram executed two aid workers in North-eastern Nigeria¹ and threatened to kill the lone 'Dapchi female student still in their custody². Amid these attacks are also growing concerns of organised criminal gangs threatening public safety and security in Nigeria. Similarly, Liberia, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Ghana and the Gambia have also recorded incidents of increased use and trafficking of illicit drugs, assassinations, armed robberies, kidnapping for ransom, revenge killings and illegal migration.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE: The relentless attacks by extremists groups in Burkina Faso especially on state symbols has had devastating impact on different sectors of the country's economy. This has led to massive relocations and forced migrations in the areas hardest hit by these attacks. Political wrangling between the opposition parties and the incumbent government has further exacerbated the human security situation in the country. In another development, constitutional crisis is brewing in Benin over allegations that the incumbent government is not adhering strictly to the provisions of the 1990 Constitution. This situation, which has set the Government and opposition on a collision path, if not nipped in the bud, may degenerate into political crisis. Also in Togo, political crisis is still ongoing over the continued detention of some opposition activists despite the ECOWAS interventions. The coalition of 14 opposition parties (C14) are calling for the removal of the President of the Electoral Commission, who they accused of being partisan, and the postponement of the dates for the census which was billed to commence from October 1 to 8, 2018 despite strong protests. The ongoing fracas portends danger to the upcoming local elections of December 20, 2018.

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY: In the quarter under review, reports from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) showed a rise in incidences of floods, droughts, and pollution in Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali. With agriculture as the mainstay of these countries, the impact of droughts and floods, in particular, on environment and food security and survival of livelihoods is enormous. This has further accentuated poverty rate, famine and inequalities in most rural farming communities. In the Sahel region, especially Senegal, an estimated six million people are facing severe food shortages in a prolong drought due to erratic rainfall while the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) also estimates that 2.5 million livestock pastoralist and crop farmers in the region risk losing their income. The perennial incidences of droughts and flooding occasioned by erratic climate change have also exacerbated the region's vulnerability to conflicts and violence such as herder-farmer conflicts, communal violence, and social tensions especially in Ghana and Nigeria.

¹ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/> (Accessed October 18, 2018)

² <https://guardian.ng/news/again-boko-haram-threatens-to-kill-leah-sharibu-mother/>

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

1.0. ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING ELECTORAL SUPPORT THROUGH NEWS

1.1. Establishing Functional Early Warning and Response Structures

1.1.1. Training of Community Conflict Monitors: From July 23 to 25 2018, WANEP in collaboration with the Agency for Co-operation and Research in Development (A.C.O.R.D) and Réseau Afrique des Jeunes de Guinée (RAJ-GUI), organized a three-day training workshop for regional and community monitors in Conakry, Guinea. The training is part of the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund supported project on strengthening of local youth initiatives for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in Guinea, and brought together a total of 38 monitors including eight women. Regular training of regional and community monitors is geared towards enhancing their knowledge and skills for effective conflict monitoring and reporting.

1.1.2. Production and dissemination of Early Warning Outputs: WANEP continues to produce timely, effective and evidenced-based early warning and response outputs from its highly developed National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) platform across the networks. State, non-state actors and international partners rely heavily on WANEP's highly analytical early warning products as a guide for their project interventions on security threats and conflict prevention as captured below;

- 🌐 The Gambian Government established a Lands Commission as recommended by WANEP – The Gambia in the quick updates published in June, 2018, following the protests in Faraba Banta
- 🌐 UN agencies such as UNFPA have identified new areas of intervention based on findings and recommendations in the Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA) report.
- 🌐 Warnings by the Niger local peace and security committee helped to avert planned insurgency attacks in the Tillabery region of the country

1.1.3. Two Thematic reports and two policy briefs were published in the quarter as follows;

Thematic Reports

- 🌐 FARMER-HERDER CONFLICTS: A renewed threat to human security in Ghana and Nigeria
- 🌐 ETATS DU SAHEL: Une gouvernance désormais hypothéquée?

Policy Briefs

- 🌐 Le Bénin risque gros à perdre son juge constitutionnel
- 🌐 Présidentielle du 24 Février 2019 au Sénégal : Contexte d'une élection à hauts risques

2.0. STRENGTHENING CITIZEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

2.1. Improving Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Mechanisms

2.1.1. WANEP/KAIPTC Holds 17th WAPI Session

WANEP in collaboration with the Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Training Institute (KAIPC) held the 17th Session of the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) from 24th -28th September 2018 with 27 participants

comprising 10 women and 17 men. The participants were primarily drawn from the five pilot countries of Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali, where ECOWAS National Early Warning and Response Centres (NEWRC) have been established. Others came from government Ministries and agencies as well as Civil Society Organisations from Member States. WAPI creates the platform to provide, build and strengthen the capacity of peacebuilding and development practitioners by enhancing their spectrum to actively contribute to the realization of WANEP's diverse thematic areas as embedded in the courses offered. At the end of the sessions, participants commended the quality of faculty members and expressed appreciation to the two institutions for organizing WAPI. Some of their thoughts are captured below;

"I am grateful to WANEP and KAIPTC for organizing this valuable training programme. It was a great learning opportunity as well as an occasion to meet with other practitioners in the field of early warning and peacebuilding." **Afeno Super Odomovo**

"Dire que c'était un plaisir serait peu c'est un honneur pour moi d'avoir pris part à cette session de formation. Je suis revenue avec tellement de connaissance que je ne pourrai trouver les mots. Infiniment merci WANEP!" – **Ruth Claudia Adou**

"My impression about WAPI Course was excellent. The facilitators are highly experienced. The course content is nourished. The WAPI training has further enhanced my skills in my daily work. I am confident that the skills and knowledge acquired will be effectively utilized." - **Rosa David**

"Je tiens à vous dire que j'ai été particulièrement impressionné par WANEP durant ce séjour Ghanéen. D'abord votre en qualité de coordinateur de cours, ensuite l'agréable de collaboration qui a prévalu durant les cours et la qualité des interventions (savoir-faire dans le domaine de l'alerte précoce) ont été très appréciés. Bonne continuation et peut-être à bientôt à Bamako." - **Colonel Oumar Niguizié COULIBALY**

"Regarding the training, I could not have asked for better facilitators. They performed well and I must commend them for their hard work. I would like to recommend that WANEP offices in the various countries should facilitate a meeting of the women who have participated in the WAPI trainings to share experiences on how they are putting their acquired skills into practice." - **Lottie Sesay**

2.1.2. Other conflict prevention and capacity building efforts were recorded in the quarter as follows;

- 🌸 Series of advocacy campaigns undertaken by WANEP-Guinea Bissau to generate awareness on the new drug policy contributed to the acceptance of the new policy, which was recently launched by the Government.
- 🌸 WANEP-Mali in collaboration with Peace Direct, trained a total of 90 members of CSOs (40 females, 50 males) in the quarter on resource mobilization. The skills acquired has enabled the participants to embark on resource mobilization initiatives.
- 🌸 A total of 216 youth were trained on conflict analysis in the Forest Region of Guinea. The training was also utilized to create awareness on UNSCR 2250 and 1325.
- 🌸 A total of 157 people trained on the concepts of social cohesion and community safety in Niger. 143 drawn from the vigilante and security groups (121 men, 22 women) and 14 from the Prefectures. Another 13 were trained on conflict analysis, mediation and negotiation.
- 🌸 WANEP-Liberia conducted trainings for 60 community youths on conflict resolution, SGBV, Advocacy, report and proposal writing. They further worked with 30 Youth Animators to hold

community outreach and advocacy visits for increased youth participation in local and national governance and leadership.

2.2. WANEP Marks 2018 International Day of Peace

In line with WANEP's mandate of promoting peace in the region through the institutionalization of a culture of peace, the organization carried out series of activities in commemoration of the 2018 International Day of Peace (IDP). The theme for IDP 2018, "***The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70***", presented a platform to reflect on several actions and interventions undertaken by relevant stakeholders for the promotion of human rights and seeking peaceful resolution of conflicts around us. Below are highlights of some of the activities carried out;

The **Regional Office** held interactive forum with pupils of Vilac International School, Accra-Ghana where the students shared ideas and discussed their perspectives on the right to peace such as "Peace is unity, peace is love!" Some of these thoughts were succinctly captured and shared on all media platforms.

WANEP-Senegal trained 30 youth members of the Peace Association of Dahra in the Louga region on conflict management and used the occasion to raise awareness on UNSCR 2250.

WANEP- Guinea Bissau held a peace rally which attracted various stakeholders.

WANEP-The Gambia organized panel discussion for students from three schools on the topic: "Civil spaces for youth and the role of the school and community in enhancing peaceful coexistence" and also held a Peace Forum to discuss the role of different sectors of the community in the maintenance of peace.

WANEP-Nigeria in collaboration with over 60 Civil Society Organizations held a Peace Walk to create awareness on the Right to Peace. In addition, they organized a Community football match for out-of-school youth as well as built capacity of 30 out of school youth on peacebuilding to prepare them as peace ambassadors within their communities. A network organization of WANEP-Nigeria in Edo state held exhibition of artworks produced by pupils from Public Primary Schools on the IDP theme.

WANEP-Togo in collaboration with the Action of the Christians for the Abolition of Torture in Togo (ACAT-TOGO) held art exhibitions to sensitize the community on the right to peace and celebrated the African Women's Day on August 11 with a debate. The network is also working with a TV director to produce a TV series on peaceful co-existence.

WANEP-Niger: held sports activities with people living with disability, a football match between students and members of the military and cultural activities on the university campus reaching an estimated 2000 people.

WANEP-Benin held an art exhibition depicting peace themes produced by peace club members of Public Primary School in Grand-Popo. The art exhibitions have been compiled into brochures and illustrated publications and is being used as a resource to create awareness against sexual violence in the schools.

2.3. Strengthening Community Peacebuilding Initiatives

In accordance with WANEP's staunch belief in effective community involvement as a panacea for lasting peace, the organization carried out several community led peacebuilding initiatives across the region in the quarter under review. Some of these initiatives are reported below;

2.3.1. Awareness and Sensitization: WANEP-Gambia sensitized 35 members of the IPC and IPC Regional Sensitization Teams (IPC-RSTs) on political tolerance and inter-party dialogue, held 15 Community Dialogue forums to promote social cohesion for conflict prevention, reconciliation and sustainable peace and a Maiden Editors Forum to discuss conflict sensitive reporting. These initiatives led to the establishment of 'Peace Champions' within five communities, a peacebuilding committee to curb tribal

and political violence, a District Peace Mediation Team and the creation of a professional Editors Forum with clear terms of reference.

2.3.2. Community Dialogue: WANEP-Nigeria under the Justice and Security Dialogue Project, held several community dialogue sessions with Community/Youth leaders and the State Police Command in Jos Plateau state, Nigeria. Some of the issues discussed included new approaches to Gang Violence, rising incidences of drug abuse, resurgence of Farmer/Herder) conflicts, electoral/political conflicts among others. In all, 50 community leaders, 90 youth gang leaders, 50 Divisional Police Officers, 20 CSOs and 15 Health officials were equipped with skills for exploring local strategies to tackle youth violence and drug abuse towards the prevention of electoral violence before, during and after elections in the local government. The network in collaboration with International Press Centre and Humanity Family Foundation for Peace and Development held a one-day media roundtable on the role of the media in combating online Gender-related hate-speech and its impact on Women Political Leadership through conflict sensitive reporting. The network also partnered with the Peace and Security Network to hold Town Hall meetings with NGOs, FBOs, CSOs in South-West Nigeria to map out innovative ways for engagement in Peace and Security.

2.3.3. Stakeholder Consultations: WANEP-Ghana held consultations with 28 representatives of the District Agriculture Sector Governance Platform (DASGOP) to explore ways of including conflict management as part of the mandate of the platform in line with the National Peace Council (NPC) Act 818. At the end of the consultations, five members were nominated from each district to support the DASGOPs to effectively complement the efforts of the Northern Ghana Governance Activity Project (NGGA) in peacebuilding and conflict management

2.3.4. Increased Community Collaborations: WANEP-Mali in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) under the project on "Improving democracy through community capacity building," built capacity of local communities in the quarter to contribute effectively to conflict prevention. This has increased the participation of the local communities in the implementation process of the peace agreement on local governance reforms in the country. It has greatly improved community collaboration with local authorities in a context where mistrust of authorities was rife. In particular, they have been able to set up consultation frameworks for community cohesion in the beneficiary communes of the project.

2.3.5. Improving Community/Security Relations: WANEP-Sierra Leone also held community dialogue sessions with 96 community members drawn from 11 districts of the country to create awareness about the role of the newly created early warning response and mediation network. The network was created from the UNDP funded project aimed at building trust between security personnel and community members. Additionally, 120 women leaders received training on leadership and electoral processes in order to enhance their understanding of the electoral process and increase women's participation in peace and decision-making processes.

2.3.6. Curriculum Harmonization Workshop: As part of the advocacy activities for the integration of a culture of peace in the preschool curriculum, WANEP-Togo organized a workshop on curriculum harmonization in Lomé on 28 and 29 August 2018. Delegates from the Pre and Primary Schools participated in the workshop. The aim of the workshop was specifically to integrate the values of peace, non-violence and social justice, derived from the WANEP-Togo Peace Education Guide, into the national curriculum.

3.0. PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH

3.1. WANEP/ECOWAS Hold Policy Dialogue on Violent Extremism: Under the auspices of WANEP's strategic partnership with ECOWAS, the two organizations held a policy dialogue themed: *Current Dynamics and Challenges of Violent Extremism in West Africa* on July 5, 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria. The meeting was aimed at generating strategic policy options from the year-long research undertaken by WANEP to interrogate the root causes and dynamics of violent extremism in Nigeria, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. It also provided a platform to review and evaluate the various approaches to eradicate terrorism and violent extremism. Key outcome of the meeting was the finalization of the draft action plan on preventing violent extremism based on the research findings and recommendations. Participants at the meeting called for increased funding, information and intelligence sharing and synergy in cross-border security initiatives among Member States in support of the ECOWAS counter terrorism strategy, which seeks to prevent violent extremism in the region.

The meeting was chaired by former ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Mrs. Salamatu Suleiman and had in attendance the ECOWAS Standby Force Head of Regional Security, Colonel Dieng Abdourahmane, who represented the ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, General Francis Benhazin. The Deputy Executive Director of WANEP, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah led the WANEP team. Also present were representatives of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the West African Civil Society Forum (WACSO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa (REWARD) initiative and Member States.

3.2. Mapping of services for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA): WANEP-Liberia worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works to conduct a mapping of services for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by providing the statistical analysis for the research. The research helps to identify issues of SEA and SGBV during road construction. Preliminary recommendations from the research has helped to identify referral pathways and service providers for victims. WANEP-Liberia received commendation from the Ministry of Public Works for its contribution to the success of the exercise.

4.0. ENHANCING GENDER AND WOMEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING

4.1. Strengthening Women's Leadership: In the review period, WANEP and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) held Lessons Learnt Forum under the UN Women's Programme on 'Promoting Women's Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria', funded by the European Union. The Forum brought together 71 participants comprising 33 men and 38 women from the three project target states of Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe states in Nigeria, to share ideas and lessons learned from implementing the project in those states. The goal of the forum was specifically to provide the opportunity to document results and for the participants to learn from best practices of women's active participation in peace and security in other countries like Ghana and Uganda and ensure synergy of purpose amongst the three states. The six-month project (March – August, 2018) led to strengthening women's role in conflict prevention, peace-making, and peacebuilding; promoted the increased role and recognition of women in peace and reconciliation processes in the target states. A key achievement of the project was the allocation of budget to women, gender and peace and security activities in Plateau state, one of the target states.

4.2. Increasing Women’s Participation at all levels: As part of efforts to increase women’s participation in politics and the peace processes and enhance their leadership potentials, the WIPNET program at the national level embarked on series of activities as detailed below;

- 🌱 WANEP-Cote d’Ivoire under the UNIFEM project on Women and Girls in Conflict Prevention through Early Warning and Prevention, trained 100 women on advocacy strategies. The training focused on conflict prevention, conflict management and outreach for participants drawn from the target areas. A further 31 women were sensitized on political participation with support from the Independent Electoral Commission. The trained agents will carry out sensitization and awareness activities in the Abobo district on electoral awareness.
- 🌱 In Mali, women in Northern Mali have been empowered to participate in the peace process by equipping them with the requisite skills to work with local authorities and also to participate actively in the signing of peace agreements. A functional WhatsApp group have been created for the women in the regions of Timbuktu and Mopti as a platform for the women to regularly inform each other about security issues concerning them.
- 🌱 In Liberia, the **Peace Hut** continues to provide the platform for women to seek justice for Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and bring the perpetrators to book. In the review period, 16 cases were closely monitored by the peace hut members with 12 of the cases involving minors resulting to life terms for the convicted perpetrators. In addition, over a 100 people benefited from SGBV training, adult literacy and income generating activities.
- 🌱 In Benin, WANEP is working with the media to continue creating awareness on Resolution 1325 and held advocacy sessions with political parties to solicit for a conducive partisan environment for women participation. This has led to 10 political parties revising their party manifestos to promote women's activism.

5.0. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1. Collaborations, Networking and Strategic Partnerships

5.1.1. WANEP/UNOWAS: In the review period, WANEP partnered with the United Nations Office for West Africa and Sahel (UNOWAS), to carry out a study titled; *“Monographs on women’s political participation in West Africa and the Sahel: strategic positioning or political tactic,”* aimed at ascertaining the level of women’s political participation in the region. The exercise is under the Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel (WGWYPS-WAS) and covered the 16 countries in West Africa and the Sahel. The study is expected to identify all the initiatives undertaken towards strengthening women’s political participation; level of harmonization of international conventions and national laws in regards to women’s political participation as well as share best practices and lessons within the focus countries. This study will also contribute to the development of resources and enhance body of knowledge on women’s political participation in West Africa.

5.1.2. WANEP/OXFAM IBIS: Oxfam IBIS and WANEP collaborated in the review period to commence a capacity building and joint conflict analysis exercise which brought together relevant partners and Oxfam Country Office staff in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. Based on WANEP’s proven expertise and presence in the region, the partnership sought to leverage the resources, expertise, and networks of both entities to strengthen the ability of Oxfam Country Offices and partners to analyze and address the structural

causes of conflict. This partnership is expected to cover the initial period of September to December, 2018. In the review period, the two organizations held several exchanges to agree on roles, responsibilities, and contributions of each organization and also outlined the methods of collaboration, as well as key principles that guide the partnership. An initial activity under this partnership is the capacity building and joint conflict analysis workshop set to take place in October, 2018.

5.1.3. WANEP/EU: Based on WANEP's experience as the leading civil society organization in the area of early warning, the organization finalized agreement with the European Union (EU) to implement a three-year project on Electoral violence Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) in the period under review. The three-year project (October 2018 to December 2021), is focused on seven West African Countries of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, and Togo. EMAM is an integral part of the overall Strategic Plan/framework of WANEP, which seeks to enhance the capacity of civil society and relevant state institutions for the promotion of human security, conflict prevention and peacebuilding as well as develop strategies for monitoring and responding to electoral conflicts. WANEP is the official partner of ECOWAS in the operationalization of the ECOWAS Early Warning mechanism (ECOWARN).

5.1.4. WANEP/ECOWAS Baseline Assessment and Evaluation of UNSCR 1325 NAPs: In line with WANEP/ECOWAS partnership, WANEP provided technical assistance to ECOWAS to conduct a baseline assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 national action plans (NAPs). In 2015, WANEP and ECOWAS conducted a survey to determine the implementation of UNSCR NAPs, which revealed progress and positive outcomes but also significant challenges in the effective reporting due to weak monitoring and evaluation capacities. This assessment is a follow-up survey aimed to update on and document key achievements and gaps in the implementation of NAPs in West Africa, identify key stakeholders and their respective roles in Women Peace and Security planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting among others.

The exercise is under the ECOWAS-EU PSS project, which is aimed to contribute to building and maintaining peace, security and stability in West Africa to ensure conditions of sustainable development in order to support ECOWAS in the execution of its conflict prevention mandate in a sustainable way. WANEP and ECOWAS through the Gender Directorate provided technical inputs and coordination support for the consultative processes that informed the development of a Continental Result Framework (CRF) on monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Women Peace Agenda in Africa.

5.0. CONCLUSION

A slight lull in program implementation was experienced in the reporting quarter, however, the quarter witnessed a significant increase in partnerships and collaborations with relevant agencies. WANEP's expertise and professionalism was much sought after leading to WANEP providing technical support to key partners and major stakeholders. In addition, more and more WANEP staff attended global forums to share ideas on WANEP's experience in implementing peacebuilding programs.

The UNWOMEN project on promoting women's engagement in peace processes in three states of Northern Nigeria ended in the reporting period with significant achievements while WANEP commenced new partnerships and collaborations with organizations such as the European Union, Oxfam IBIS etc.

